

REMARKS

The Office Action of October 8, 2002, presents the examination of claims 8-11, 14, and 16-18. Claims 8-11, 14, and 16-18 are canceled herein. Claims 19-21 are added. Support for newly added claims is found in original claims 1, 2, and 6, respectively. No new matter is inserted into the application.

New Matter

The Examiner rejects claims 8-11, 14, and 16-17 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, for allegedly containing new matter. Claims 8-11, 14, and 16-17 are canceled, thus rendering the rejection moot. Applicants would traverse the rejection if applied to newly added claims 19-21. Specifically, claims 19-21 do not contain the phrases specifically rejected by the Examiner. Thus, the rejection should be withdrawn.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph

The Examiner rejects claims 10-11 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph for allegedly containing subject matter not described in the specification. Claims 10-11 and 14 are canceled, thus rendering the rejection moot. Applicants would traverse the rejection if applied to newly added claims 19-21. Specifically,

claims 19-21 do not contain the subject matter specifically rejected by the Examiner. Thus, the rejection should be withdrawn.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

The Examiner rejects claim 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph for allegedly being indefinite. Claim 17 is canceled, thus rendering the rejection moot. Applicants would traverse the rejection if applied to newly added claims 19-21. Specifically, claims 19-21 do not contain the subject matter specifically rejected by the Examiner. Thus, the rejection should be withdrawn.

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully submit that the above remarks and/or amendments fully address and overcome the rejections of record, such that the present application should now be found in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to issue a Notice of Allowance indicating that claims 19-21 are allowed.

If there are any minor matters precluding allowance of the application which may be resolved by a telephone discussion, the

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Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Kristi L. Rupert, Ph.D. (Reg. No. 45,702) at (703) 205-8000.

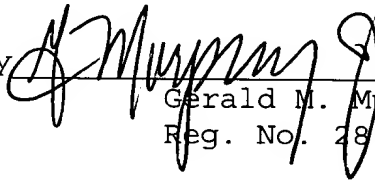
Pursuant to the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.17 and 1.136(a), the Applicants hereby petition for an extension of three (3) months to April 8, 2003, in which to file a reply to the Office Action. The required fee of \$930.00 is enclosed herewith.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By



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Attachment: Marked up version showing changes made

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MARKED UP VERSION SHOWING CHANGES MADE

In the claims:

Claims 8-11, 14, and 16-18 are canceled.

Claims 19-21 are added.